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Forty-sixth session
Item 30 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 21 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a declaration of the European Community and its member States on the situation in Madagascar, issued at The Hague and Brussels on 20 August 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 30 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/150.

ANNEX

Statement on the situation in Madagascar issued at The Hague and Brussels on 20 August 1991 by the European Community

The Community and its member States are deeply concerned about the recent tragic events in Madagascar. They urge both the authorities of Madagascar and all the political forces to do their utmost in order to find a peaceful solution to the present crisis respecting democracy and human rights.

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Forty-sixth session
Item 68 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 21 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a declaration of the European Community and its member States on the situation in the Soviet Union, issued at The Hague on 20 August 1991 (see annex I). I furthermore transmit the text, in both languages, of a declaration of the European Community and its member States on the situation in the Soviet Union issued at The Hague and Brussels on 22 August 1991 (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annexes to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 68 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/150.

ANNEX I

Declaration on the situation in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics issued at The Hague on 20 August 1991 by the European Community

The European Community and its member States are deeply concerned at the coup d'état in the Soviet Union. They strongly condemn the removal of President Gorbachev from office and the seizure of all power by a "State Committee for the State of Emergency" as a clearly unconstitutional act and a flagrant violation of the Soviet Union's obligations under the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. The Community and its member States demand that constitutional order be re-established forthwith and that President Gorbachev be reinstated in his functions and rights as Head of State of the Soviet Union.

Although the outcome of the current events in the Soviet Union remains unclear, the first decree of this State Committee, providing, inter alia, for the suspension of democratically elected bodies and censorship of the media, leaves no doubt as to the true nature of the regime that now holds the reins of power in the Soviet Union. Bearing in mind all the implications of the situation, they urge the Soviet authorities, in conformity with the commitments of their country under the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter, to refrain from any act of intimidation or violence.

The European Community and its member States believe that the continuation in power of the new regime cannot but bring to a halt the process of democratic reforms in the Soviet Union and the dramatic improvements in the international climate to which President Gorbachev has made such an important contribution and which they consider a prerequisite for fruitful cooperation between them and the Soviet Union.

They urge the present leaders to allow access to all elected representatives of the Soviet people as well as to President Gorbachev himself. The presidency has been mandated to contact these people in order to assure itself of their well-being and their ability to exercise fully their rights and freedoms.

The Community and its member States hold those now in power accountable for the possible consequences of their action for the stability, security and cooperation in Europe and for international relations in general. They are aware of the special concerns of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in this respect.

As a measure of their solidarity with these countries, the Community and its member States reaffirm their desire to conclude association agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland in the near future. In the same spirit, they reiterate their full support for the ongoing process of reform in Bulgaria and Romania. They also underline their commitment to reinforce contacts with Albania. The Commission will explore ways and means to further expand cooperation with Albania, Bulgaria and Romania.

/...

They note that the coup d'état took place on the eve of the scheduled signing of a new union treaty, which would have been an important step towards improved internal relations and stability in the Soviet Union. They reiterate their view that the problems existing in the relations between the Soviet Union's constituent republics can only be overcome through negotiations and dialogue. In particular, they are seriously concerned at the reports of military actions in the Baltic States, and urgently appeal to the Soviet authorities to refrain from all threat or use of force against the democratically elected Governments and representatives of the Baltic peoples.

The European Community and its member States insist that the Soviet Union abide by all its international commitments and treaties, including those concerning troop withdrawals and disarmament. They expect it to respect the integrity and security of all States in Europe. Until the Soviet Union returns to constitutional order and the full observance of its international obligations under the Paris Charter, the Community will suspend its economic assistance in the form of credits for food supplies and technical assistance. However, it will continue humanitarian emergency aid provided that it reaches the population in need. The member States are invited to consider acting likewise.

Furthermore, the Community and its member States are of the opinion that until such time as constitutional order and democratic freedoms have been restored, their participation in the meeting in Moscow of the Conference on the Human Dimension in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe cannot be justified.

ANNEX II

Declaration on the situation in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics issued at The Hague and Brussels on 22 August 1991 by the European Community

The European Community and its member States have witnessed the collapse of the coup in the Soviet Union with profound relief and satisfaction. They rejoice in the reinstatement of President Gorbachev and the restoration of constitutional order and democratic freedoms.

They express their deep admiration for all individuals who resisted the coup and acknowledge the key role played in this respect by President Yeltsin and other democratically elected leaders. It gives them new cause for confidence in the future of Europe that after relatively few years of reforms, the democratic forces in Soviet society have already become so strong that they could not even be subdued by an alliance of ministers controlling all the Union's security forces.

The European Community and its member States congratulate President Gorbachev, who is the architect of these reforms, and President Yeltsin, without whose courage the fruits of these reforms would not have survived.

The inhabitants of the Soviet Union have demonstrated that for them their Government's commitment under the Paris Charter to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as their only system of government is not an empty phrase. The last three days have shown that democracy has taken root in Soviet society in an irreversible manner. The Soviet Union still faces many problems, notably in developing a new relationship among its constituent republics, but given the strength of its democratic forces it may be trusted to find solutions through negotiations and dialogue.

In view of the restoration of constitutional order and democratic freedoms in the Soviet Union, the European Community and its member States have decided to revoke their decision of 20 August 1991 to suspend the Community's economic assistance in the form of credits for food supplies and technical assistance. They have also decided that there are now no obstacles to their participation in the forthcoming Conference on the Human Dimension in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to be held in Moscow in September.